

OLC 72-0711
14 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OSS Records

1. Mr. Robert M. Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, visited Headquarters as a followup to Chairman J. W. Fulbright's letter request of 16 May concerning records of OSS missions in China and Indochina during the second World War and met with [redacted], Deputy for Information Processing, ISD, and [redacted] OLC. After reviewing with Mr. Blum the inherent limitations in the files available due to the nature of OSS reports and the scattering of files to State, Archives, and Army, as well as SSU, on the disbandment of OSS, it was agreed that we would search out such reports as may be available in the SSU files relating to the specific areas of interest outlined by Mr. Blum and make them available for his review here at Headquarters. Mr. Blum appeared quite satisfied with this arrangement.

2. Mr. Blum identified his chief areas of interest as team reports emanating from the north as well as team reports from Hanoi in the south; reports of meetings or contacts with Ho Chi Minh and listing of supplies or equipment furnished to Ho; reports of the mission to Yunnan (which received some publicity early this year on TV); reports from Hanoi filed by [redacted] and reports from Saigon filed by [redacted]. He is particularly interested in any photographs that might be contained with the reports.

3. Mr. Blum was advised that we would put a man on the job of searching out such reports from unsegregated files and that [redacted] would call him in a week or so to give Mr. Blum a progress report on the success of our efforts. Mr. Blum said this would be fine that he was not in any particular rush but that he would need to follow through in these areas due to the personal interest that has developed on the part of Chairman Fulbright.

4. Mr. Blum is apparently quite knowledgeable about the activities of the various missions operating in China and Indochina during the last year of the war and the year immediately following World War II. He noted, in passing, that he hoped that we would be able to trace the reporting procedures followed by persons such as [redacted] in reporting from Hanoi to determine what disposition had been made of such reports and to determine whether the information contained therein had ever been forwarded to Washington. He also noted that the Committee had learned from testimony that it has received that OSS was an ad hoc organization insofar as reporting methods and procedures utilized in overseas areas and realized that the tracing of reports might be extremely difficult. He mentioned he had met also with [redacted] a former Agency employee whose book "OSS - The Secret History of America's First Central Intelligence Agency" will be published later in the year.

5. [redacted] office will identify and gather together the material suggested by Mr. Blum's outline. It will then be necessary to review the material prior to review by Mr. Blum.

[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject

1 - Ex/Dir

1 - DDS

1 - OGC

3 - [redacted]

1 - OLC Chrono

1 - DDP

OLC/JGO:mmc (15 June 1972)

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Wednesday - 14 June 1972

25X1

4. [] Mr. Robert M. Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, visited Headquarters and met with [] Deputy for Information Processing, ISD, and [] as a followup to Chairman Fulbright's letter of 16 May requesting access to OSS files on Indochina. See Memorandum for the Record. 25X1

25X1 9. [] Received a call from Mr. Robert Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who told me that in connection with the research he is doing on events in Indochina he has run into several references to NIE 5 of December 1950 and asked if he could see a copy. I told him that I was sorry he would have to make his request direct to the National Security Council. We discussed also the Committee's request for review of OSS files on Indochina. I told him that the files that have been identified so far relate solely to papers and reports accumulated in the field. We will be making additional effort to identify files of Headquarters OSS. He said there is no real time press at the moment and that he would follow my guidance when we had an appropriate number of files for his review. 25X1 Messrs. [] C/RI, have been advised.

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Wednesday - 12 July 1972

6. (Unclassified - LLM) Robert Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called to determine what progress had been made in pulling together OSS material on Indochina for his review and I said I would check.

JOURNAL
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Friday - 14 July 1972

1. (Unclassified - JGO) I talked to Mr. Robert Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, and told him that the additional OSS files identified since our last conversation are also station files that would contain little or no indication of distribution given to the reports contained therein. Blum told me he is not in any time press at the moment and will await my call to set a date for him to visit Headquarters to review the files available. A very tentative date was made for the week of 17 July or the week following.

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Thursday - 20 July 1972

25X1 9. [] Robert Blum, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called regarding Chairman Fulbright's request that we make available to the Committee NIEs regarding Southeast Asia. Mr. Blum said he was particularly interested in NIE-5, which had been publicly quoted and referred to extensively. He said that on the basis of his conversations with Agency representatives, who had advised him that NIEs were the property of the NSC, Chairman Fulbright had written to the White House on the matter and had received a response from [] saying these estimates were held 25X1 by the originating office and suggesting that the request for access to them should be made to Director Helms. I told Blum I would take the matter up with the Director.

Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Monday - 24 July 1972

25X1

18. [] John Lehman, NSC staff, called following our conversation last Friday on the question of Senator Fulbright's request for a National Intelligence Estimate dealing with Indochina. Lehman said he had consulted David Young about the matter and was appalled to hear Young say that apparently all NIEs as well as NSC documents are subject to the 10-year declassification rule set forth in the latest Executive Order. Lehman urged that I consult Larry Houston to see if we could find some basis for making an exception. He made clear that his personal view was that NIEs should be protected at all costs. He commented that he was even more amazed to learn that a recent Executive Order provides that there shall be no interdepartmental meetings without a "Presidential charter." Lehman points out that this means that WSAG, SRG and LIG and other groups in which we participate are all illegal. He said he can't imagine who would have put out such an order.